

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. Reconsideration of the subject patent application in view of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3 are amended.

Claim 2 is allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,823,416 to Haji in view of Japanese Patent No. 2000-212777 to Soma et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,588,185 to Shoda et al.

Regarding the amended claim 1, none of Haji, Soma et al. and Shoda et al., alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or renders foreseeable that positioning pins are protruded upwardly on the supporting members and the guide members are mounted on the supporting members by fitting the positioning pins upwardly in the positioning holes formed in the guide members.

The Office action states that Haji discloses guide members (18 and 40-41; column 7, rows 45-46) and screws/supporting members (42). However, there is no disclosure in Haji that positioning pins are protruded upwardly on the screws/supporting members (42). Since Haji fails to disclose the positioning pins, Haji does not disclose that the guide members (18 and 40-41) are mounted on the screws/supporting members (42) by fitting the positioning pins upwardly

in the positioning holes formed in the guide members (18 and 40-41). Soma et al. is silent about the positioning pins and the positioning holes. Soma et al. is merely cited for the use of a ceramic coating for the top surface of a substrate mounting portion of an electrode. The Office action also states that Shoda et al. discloses a plurality of supporting members (12). However, there is no disclosure in Shoda et al. that positioning pins are protruded upwardly on the supporting members (12). Since Shoda et al. fails to disclose the positioning pins, Shoda et al. does not disclose that the guide members are mounted on the supporting members (12) by fitting the positioning pins upwardly in the positioning holes formed in the guide members.

Since some of the limitations of claim 3 are incorporated into the amended claim 1, the following will discuss the rejection against claim 3. The Office action states in rejecting claim 3 that Haji discloses positioning pins (i.e., screws) (See, e.g., Fig. 8). However, as shown in Fig. 8 of Haji, the screws (42) are not protruded upwardly on the supporting members (42). Thus, the screws (42) are not the positioning pins of the claim 1 invention. Also, the guide members (18 and 40-41) of Haji are not mounted on the supporting members (42) by fitting the screws (42) upwardly in the holes (12c). Instead, the guide members (18 and 40-41) are secured to the base (12) by fitting the screws (42) downwardly into the holes (12c) (See, Fig. 8 and column 7, rows 37-39).

Accordingly, the combination of Haji, Soma et al. and Shoda et al. does not meet all of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, the asserted combination of Haji, Soma et al. and Shoda et al. does not render claim 1 obvious. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection as it applies to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 which is dependent from claim 1 should be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 1.

In addition, regarding claim 3, none of Haji, Soma et al. and Shoda et al., alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or renders foreseeable that the guide members are mounted on the supporting members by the own weight of the guide members without effecting bolting.


In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

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If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No.: NGB-41176.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By: 
Nobuhiko Sukenaga, Reg. No. 39446

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

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